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Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 2 November 2007, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kerim ..... (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
(President of the General Assembly)

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07-57750 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.05 p.m.

Organization of the sixty-second regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Allocation of items (*continued*) (A/62/252)

Item 10. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/61/493)

1. **The Chairman**, recalling that, at its third plenary meeting, the General Assembly had decided to consider the item directly in plenary meeting, drew attention to document A/61/493, in which the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission requested that the agenda item be also allocated to the Fifth Committee for the sole purpose of considering the question of financing field missions of the Commission. He took it that the General Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that item 10 should be also allocated to the Fifth Committee for that purpose.

2. *It was so decided.*

Item 65. Report of the Human Rights Council (A/62/53)

3. **The Chairman** recalled that at its first meeting the General Committee had decided to defer consideration of the allocation of the agenda item. It was his understanding that the General Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that, during its current session, the item should be allocated to the Third Committee.

4. **Mr. Alvarez** (Uruguay) said that, given his delegation's constant position that the agenda item should be allocated directly to plenary, it was disappointed that it was proposed to allocate it to the Third Committee. That decision, on which his delegation had not been consulted, would weaken the institution-building package adopted at the Council's fifth session. While Uruguay would not jeopardize the consensus, it adhered to its position that the decision to be adopted should not create a precedent for future sessions. To that end, he recommended the inclusion in the decision of a sentence reflecting the language used on the same issue in document A/61/252/Add.2, which could read: "It is also understood that the current arrangement is in no way a reinterpretation of General Assembly resolution 60/251 and will be reviewed before the beginning of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, on the basis of the experience gained with the efficiency and practicality of this arrangement".

5. **Ms. Brazier** (United Kingdom) and **Ms. Lintonen** (Finland) supported the position stated by the Uruguayan delegation.

6. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt), **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and **Mr. Hagen** (United States of America) sought clarification as to why the proposed decision should not be considered as a precedent.

7. **Mr. Hannesson** (Iceland) asked when the issue had been discussed and how the understanding had been reached. He was hearing of it for the first time.

8. **Mr. Mavroyiannis** (Cyprus) concurred with the view expressed by the previous speaker, but also with the concerns expressed by the representative of Uruguay.

9. **Mr. Alvarez** (Uruguay) said that, if the decision under discussion set a precedent, the item would in future automatically be allocated to the Third Committee. He took issue with the institutionalization of the decision. There was currently no consensus on the definitive allocation of the agenda item. The Human Rights Council was a new body and he wished to ensure that the decision was not a permanent one.

10. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt), supported by **Mr. Jallow** (Gambia) and **Mr. Mohamad** (Sudan), pointed out that items were allocated at each session, at which point each delegation could state that it did not wish a particular item to be allocated to a certain committee. If the delegation of Uruguay so wished, at the next session it would have an opportunity to express its views.

11. **Mr. Alvarez** (Uruguay) said he was making the request for a proviso clause because his delegation had not been consulted about the proposed decision. He did not wish to see the institution-building package disturbed by a review in the Third Committee. He would not oppose the consensus, but could not easily agree to it.

12. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica) said that for him, as Chairman of the Third Committee and as representative of Jamaica, allocation of the report of the Human Rights Council to the Third Committee posed no problem. In any event, the recommendations of the

Third Committee were eventually submitted to the plenary of the General Assembly.

13. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that the African position was that there was no relation between the institution-building package and the allocation of the item to the Third Committee. He therefore endorsed the view expressed by the previous speaker.

14. **The Chairman** suggested that the meeting should be suspended for consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

15. **The Chairman** thanked the representative of Iceland for leading the consultations, during which an understanding had been reached on the issue of whether the proposed decision would set a precedent. He took it that the General Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that, for the sixty-second session, agenda item 65 (Report of the Human Rights Council) should be allocated to the Third Committee.

16. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.